1	2	3	4	5
4. Foreign corrency Assets in US 8 million .	5631	6434	15068	19651
5. Expert growth in dollar terms (in per cent) .	–1.5	3.8	19.6	17.3

(P) Provisional
(Q) Quick estimates
(A) Advance estim .tes
(E) Anticipated.

Note : 1. Shows growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at 1980-81 prices;

2. Show growth as measured by the Index of Industrial production. For the year 1994-95 the period pertains to April-October 1994.

4. These figures are as at the end of March, and for the 1994-95 these pertain to foreign currency assets as on February 4, 1995 and;

5. Shows growth in exports as per the data of Director General Commercial Intelligence and Statistics converted into current US dollars. For the year 1994-95 the data pertains to April-January 1994-95.

(c) The increase in total employment is estimated to be 3 million in 1991-92 and 6 million for each of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94, with prospects for a larger rise in 1994-95.

Report of the Tenth Finance Commission

227. SHRI IQAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tenth Finance Commission have submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, what are the full details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M· V· CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Tenth Finance Commission submitted its Report to the President on 26-11-1994. The Report alongwith the Explanatory Memorandum on the action taken thereon is being laid in Parliament today·

Demand for Credit Cards

228. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for credit cards is rising in the country;

(b) if so, the details regarding the total number and types of credit issued, institution-wise;

(c) whether there is any scheme to issue credit cards by all nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M· V· CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Banks classify their cards into three categories i.e. Premium, Non-premium and Middle level. cards. Some of the banks categories them as Gold, Executive and Classic cards. As per the information available, the names of the nationalised banks

which have introduced their own credit cards and the number of credit card holders (bank wise) are given below:—

Name of the Bank	No. of Credit Card holders	As on
Andhra Bank	77,608	31.3.94
Bank of Baroda	1,60,632	30.9.94
Bank of India	33,674	30.9.94
Vijaya Bank	42,176	30.9.94
Canara Bank	2,12,168	30.9.94
Central Bank of India	87,142	30.9.94

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India had issued instructions to all scheduled commercial banks in June 1989, inter-alia, emphasising that it may not be advantageous or economical if too many banks introduce credit cards of their own. In case any bank desires to enter into domestic credit card business it would be better for it to have a suitable tie-up arrangement with one of the banks which have already introduced credit card.

Customs Duty on news-print

229. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kalkar Committee and the Estimates Committee had recommended the imposition of Customs duty on standard newsprint;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to impose customs duty on newsprint as per those recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kelkar Committee in its long-term policy recommendations, inter-alia suggested a move away from the administered pricing and quantitative allocation policy regime by introducing an OGL import facility to all news papers with a tariff rate of 40% with decanalisation. The Estimate Committee einter-alia, endorsed the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee with regard to long-term policy on newsprint.

(c) to (e) In view of the ensuing Union Budget 1995-96, it is not possible to indicate the views of the Government in this matter at this stage.

Master plan for drug control

230. SHRI S. AUSTIN:

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to National Master Plan for Drug Control (1994-2000) the menace of drugs has posed a serious threat to the country;